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can be made to work a substantial reform in the Austrian tax system, and to afford relief from other taxes which are more burdensome.

In spite of the whir of the statistical machinery, which occasionally distracts the reader's attention from the main line of thought, the essay is very interesting, and contains much information that will appeal to the general student of economic conditions, as well as to the student of taxation.

CARL C. PLEHN.

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*The Anthracite Coal Industry: A Study of the Economic Conditions and Relations of the Co-operative Forces in the Development of the Anthracite Coal Industry of Pennsylvania.* By PETER ROBERTS, (With an Introduction by W. G. SUMMER.) New York: The Macmillan Company, 1901. 8vo, pp. xiii + 261.

A FIELD of economic history but little cultivated as yet, but one which promises as fruitful results as are likely to be realized on the historical side of economics, lies in the study of the development of the more important industries of the country. Such a study one would expect to disclose in concrete form the operation of economic forces, show the stages of development through which the industry has passed, the relation of the industry in hand to general industrial development, and such a picture of present conditions and tendencies as would make possible some generalizations as to the future.

The volume before us, dealing with an industry which from the beginning has been full of interest because of the many problems of industrial organization it has presented, and because of the picturesque way in which it has frequently met them, only partially meets these expectations. The author, it is true, disclaims the purpose of dealing with all phases of his subject, and has reserved for a second volume (to appear in the near future) the treatment of the "social and moral conditions prevailing" in the region. We may assume, therefore, that he has completed his study of the economic side of the industry, and with this in mind one may well express disappointment with the book.

The first two chapters deal with the deposits and the methods employed in developing the coal beds. Nowhere can be found so clear

and interesting an account of these subjects as is here presented. The third and fourth chapters deal respectively with "Capitalization" and "Transportation." Here one would expect to find centered the chief interest of the book from the purely economic point of view, but it is just here that the book is the weakest. Under "Capitalization" are discussed "capital's transforming power," "appreciation of coal land," "estimate of capital goods," "the cost of production" (the best part of the chapter), and "distribution of productive wealth;" but there is no hint that there is, or ever has been, any question as to over-capitalization or of the bearing of this question on the development of the industry or on the career of the companies engaged in it. The object of the chapter on "Transportation" (pages 61-82) "is to trace the development of these means of transportation and to show their relation to the anthracite coal industry." Whether one seeks to learn of the development of particular roads or the means of transportation leading to the various markets, one is sure to leave the chapter unsatisfied; and of the two characteristic features of the industry which are inseparably connected with the subject of transportation, viz.: (1) the union of carrying and mining privileges in the same company, and (2) the various pooling arrangements of the carriers, the one is barely mentioned and the other receives but a scant half-dozen pages. As an economic study that shall lead to an understanding of the large lines of development of the industry this seems a grave defect. The other chapters of a distinctively economic character, on "Employees and Wages" and "Reclaiming the Waste," are far more satisfactory.

Turning to those chapters which deal with the social rather than the economic aspects of the industry, we find the most valuable part of the book. The author's evident familiarity with present conditions, gained from long residence in the anthracite region, makes his study of mine inspection, labor organizations, accidents, etc., of the greatest value. One must go far, indeed, to find a more painstaking and appreciative presentation of industrial conditions than is here given. The cause of unionism is firmly upheld and the urgent need of organization is argued, but the author does not hesitate to condemn the practices and spirit often exhibited by the union. Sympathy for the workingmen does not blind him to their faults or deter him from denouncing them. One merit of the book, which shows itself particularly in this part, should be mentioned. The author is not a student

of science for the sake of science, but for the sake of men. He is not content with pointing out the fact of the existence of evils, but goes beyond to seek the remedy for them. Hence his urging with great moral earnestness "facts which labor ought to know;" hence also his insistence upon "possible improvements by the syndicate." Freed but recently, it seems, from the "spell of utopian socialism," he defends with the zeal of a convert and the vigor of one who uses new weapons, the captain of industry and capitalistic production. Consolidated control, he thinks, will lead to stricter discipline in the mines, and this will result in a great saving of life and property; it will introduce improved methods of production and secure better administration, avoiding the waste of duplication and competition; and it may be expected that certain abuses hitherto practiced by individual operators will be reformed—such as those connected with the "pluck me" store and the sale of supplies; while enlightened self-interest should lead to the adoption of a system of settling labor disputes less disastrous than strikes. The duty of the "syndicate" to take more than a cash interest in a community from which so much wealth is derived by it is urged with great force. The author is less concerned with the sins of commission, with which consumers of coal charge the trust, than with the sins of omission which have left everything yet to be done for the physical, moral, and intellectual uplifting of large masses of population in the community. "There are," he says, "pathological symptoms of moral degeneracy in anthracite communities which demand strong and vigorous remedies, and the means to apply the remedies should be supplied by the persons who reap large dividends from anthracite mining."

The book has an index and numerous excellent maps and charts, but no bibliography. The only indication of the authorities used is found in the running references in the texts, and these are not frequent. The study is far from strong on its historical and economic sides; the arrangement of material is often crude; and the author frequently fails to see the forest for the trees. Nevertheless it is a valuable contribution to industrial history on account of the excellent description it gives of the social conditions in an important industry.

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